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1st Feb. 1992
No 112 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

JOIN OUR PARTY ON THE ISLAND OF SODOR INSIDE!

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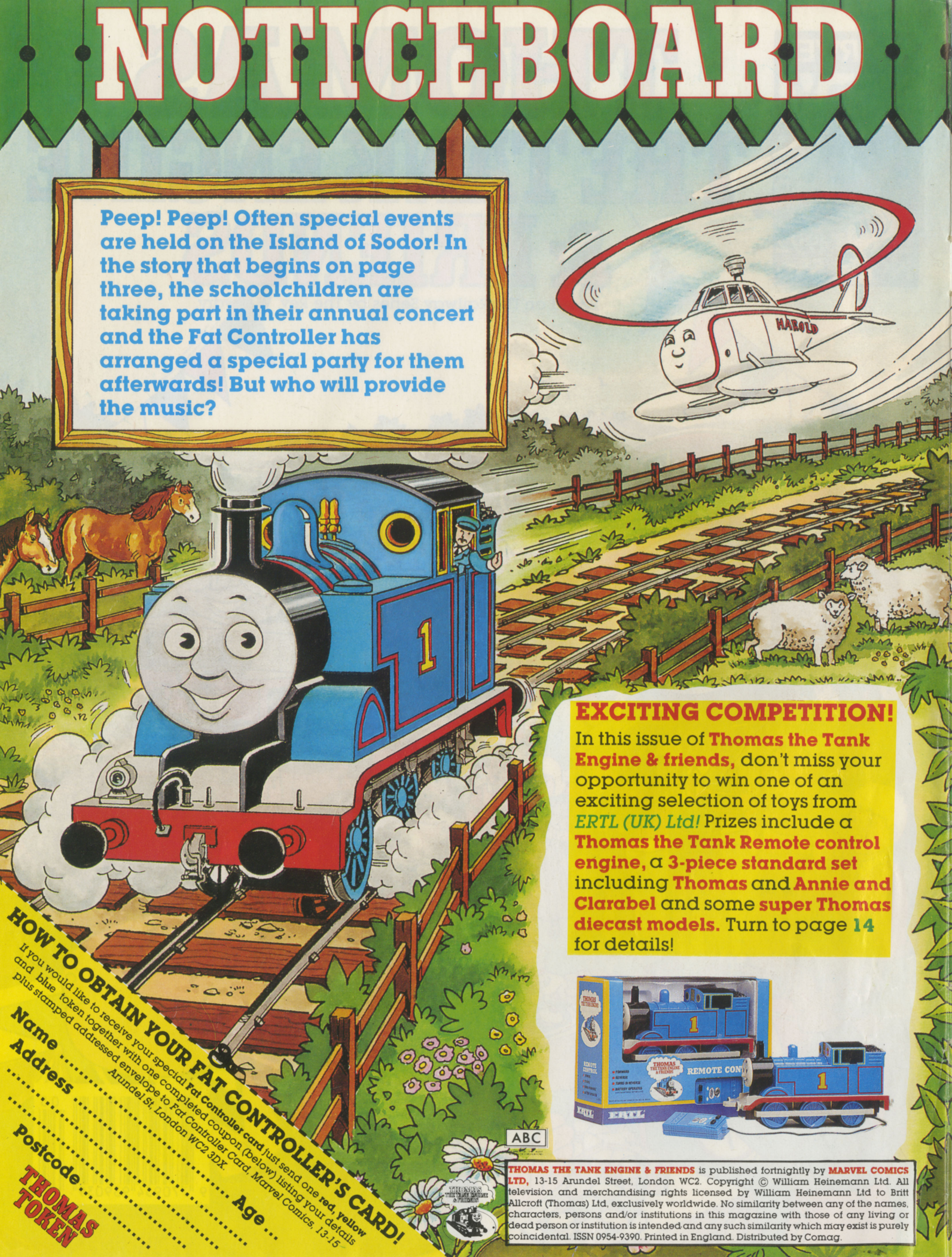
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Often special events are held on the Island of Sodor! In the story that begins on page three, the schoolchildren are taking part in their annual concert and the Fat Controller has arranged a special party for them afterwards! But who will provide the music?



EXCITING COMPETITION!

In this issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & friends,** don't miss your opportunity to win one of an exciting selection of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd!* Prizes include a **Thomas the Tank Remote control engine,** a **3-piece standard set** including **Thomas** and **Annie and Clarabel** and some **super Thomas diecast models.** Turn to page **14** for details!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your special **Fat Controller card** just send one **red, yellow** and **blue** token together with one completed coupon (below) listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope to Fat Controller Card, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

Name .....

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THOMAS TOKEN

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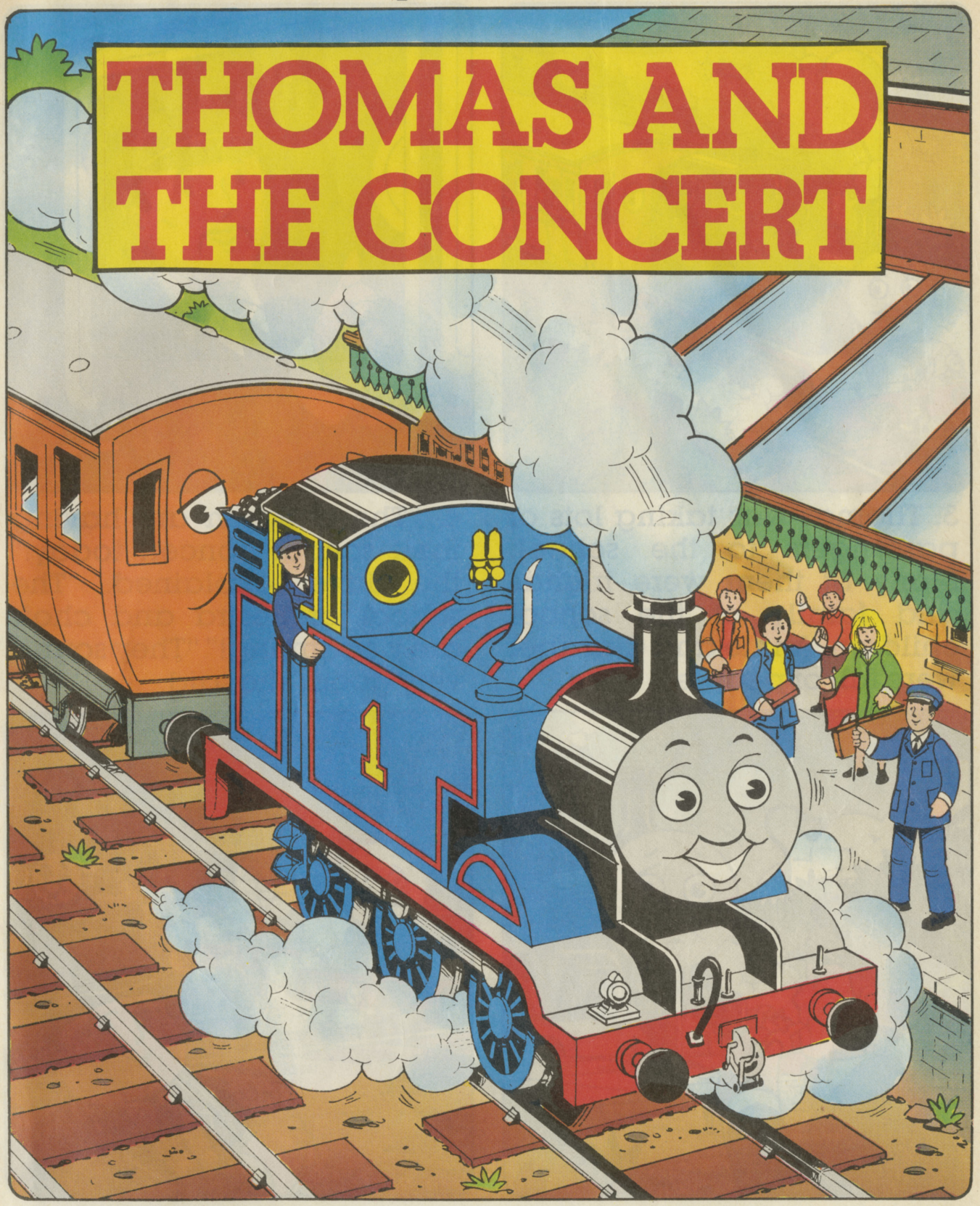
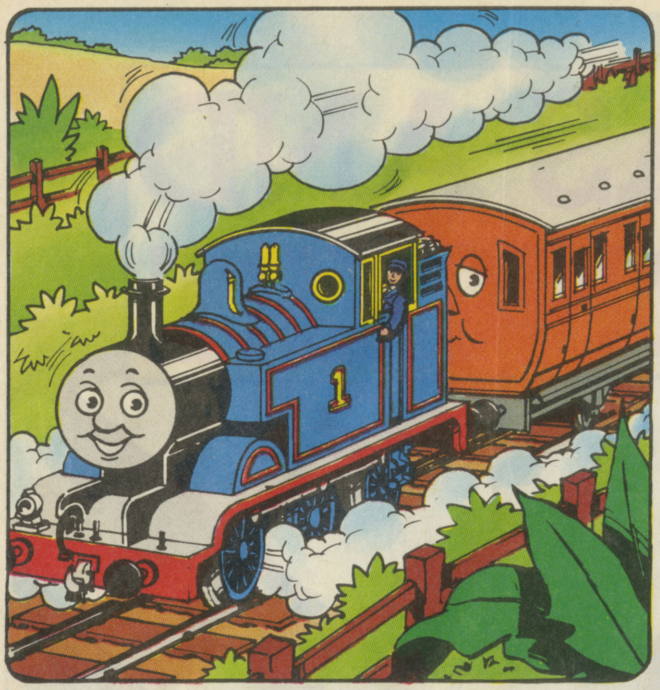
A listen and look story!

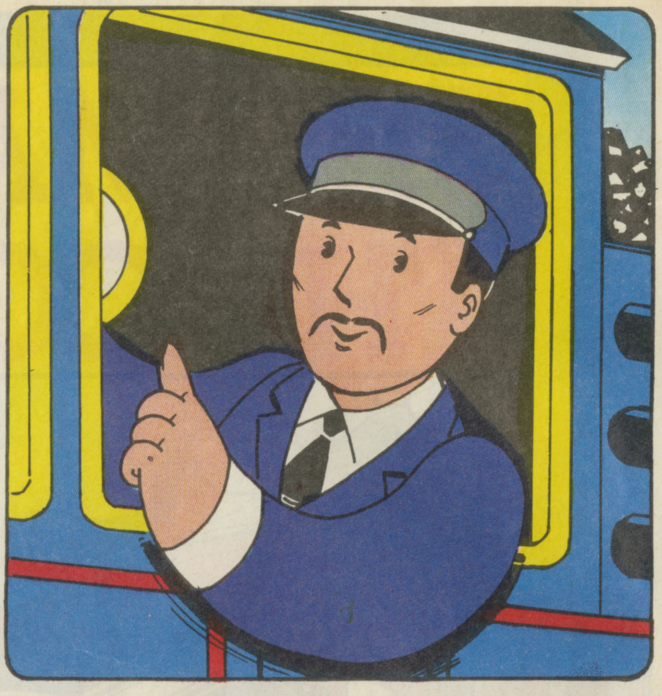


1. Thomas is a very busy engine on the Fat Controller's railway especially when he pulls his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel up and down the branch line.

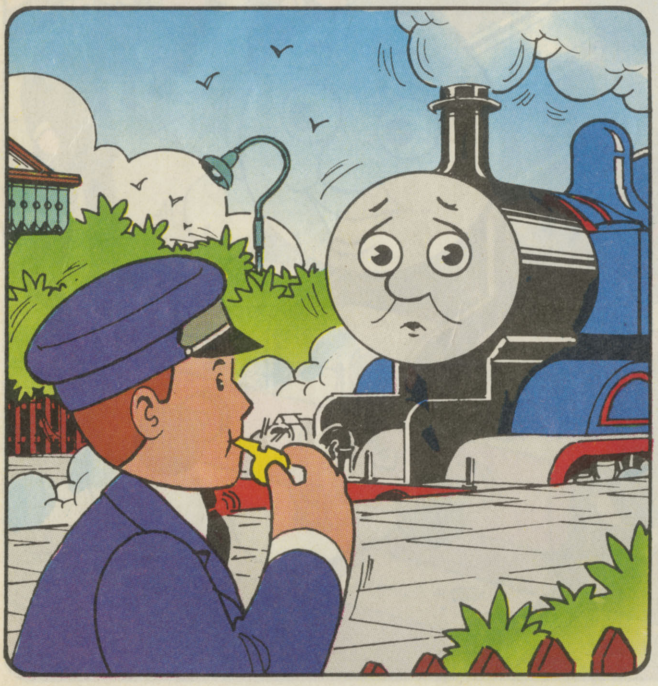
2. It was a very special day on the Island of Sodor because the School Orchestra were taking part in their annual concert. The main station was very busy.



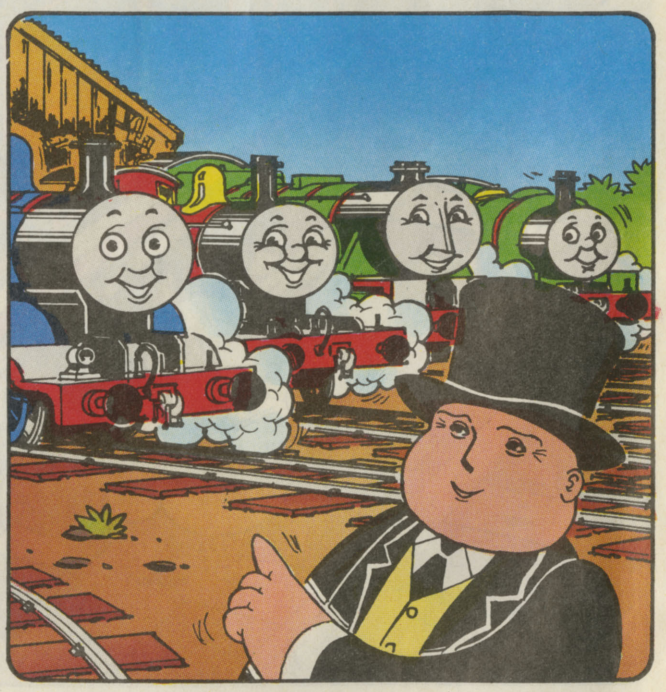
3. Thomas was taking lots of passengers to the school. Many of them were friends and family of the school children. Annie and Clarabel were full of people.



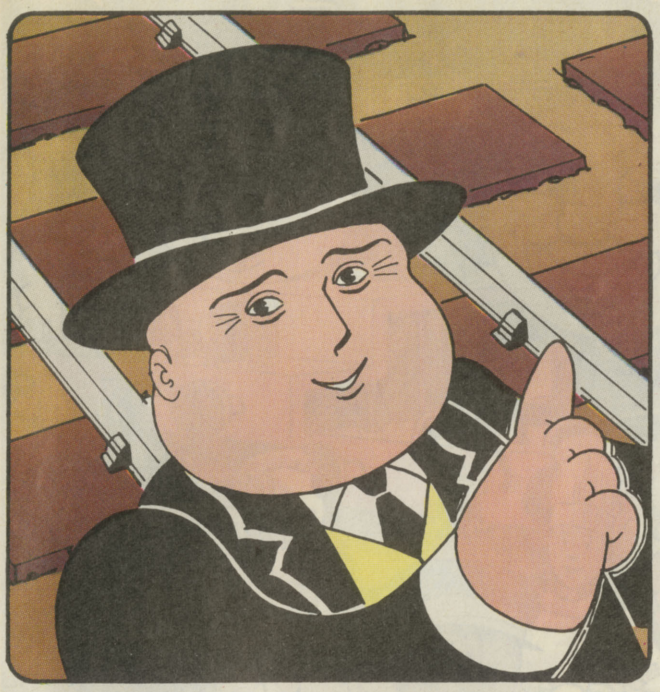
4. "The children are having their school concert today!" the driver explained. "The school orchestra and choir are performing!" "They sound very good!" he said.



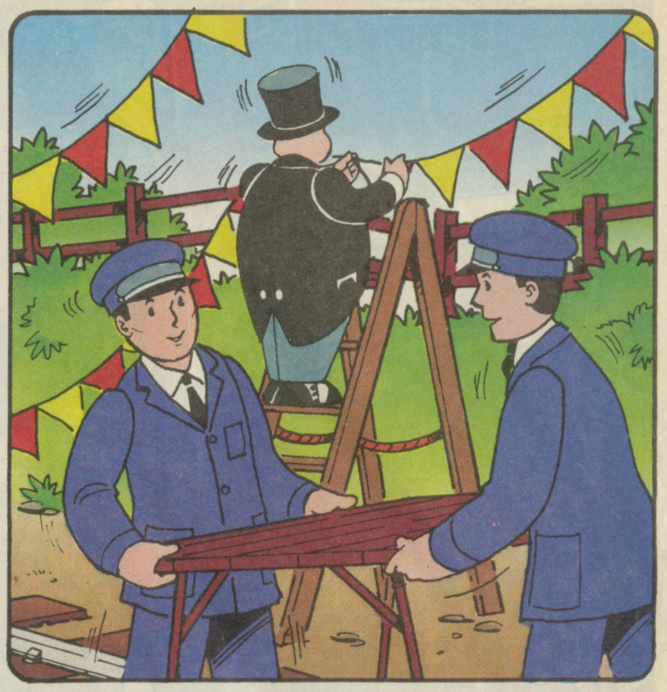
5. The passengers arrived at the school but Thomas had to leave when the Station-master blew his whistle. Thomas was sad. He wanted to hear the concert.



6. Thomas arrived back at the Main Station. The Fat Controller came to see Thomas and all the other engines. He had important news.

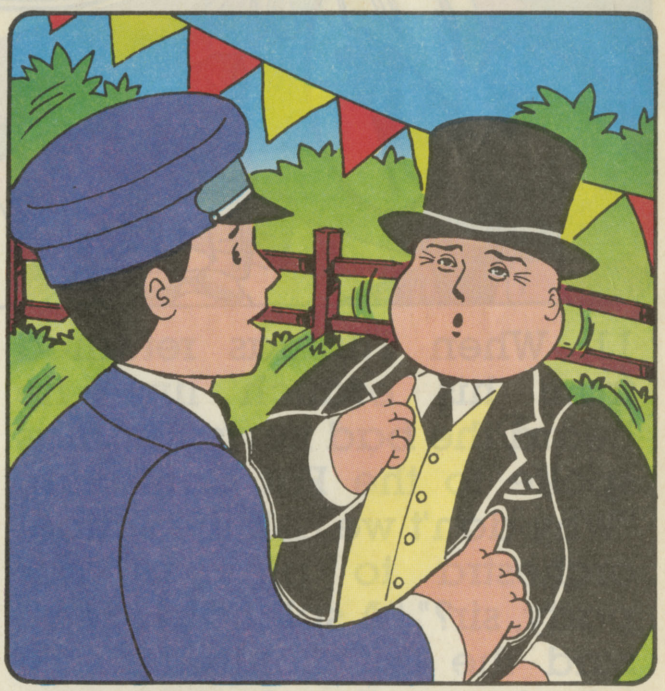


7. "I want you all to finish your work and be back here by five o'clock!" he told them. "I have arranged a party for the schoolchildren. A brass band will be arriving!



8. The engines were very excited. "Thankyou, sir!" they said. While they happily set about their work the guards brought some tables and chairs for the guests.

9. Special caterers were busy making sandwiches and baking cakes for the party. "All we need now is for the brass band to arrive!" said the Stationmaster.



10. But the Fat Controller had a telephone call to say that the band could not come. "Whatever can we do. he cried. We can't have a party without music!"

11. When Thomas returned from his branch line, he heard the bad news. Thomas spoke to the Fat Controller. "Why don't we ask the school orchestra to play at our party, sir?" "A splendid idea!" said the Fat Controller. "I'll telephone the headmaster right away!" "The orchestra would be delighted to play," said the headmaster.

12. It was soon arranged and Thomas was sent to collect the schoolchildren. The party started right on time! The engines whistled as the orchestra played and the choir sang. Afterwards, everyone had refreshments. The schoolchildren all agreed that it was a great party and they specially thanked the Fat Controller.

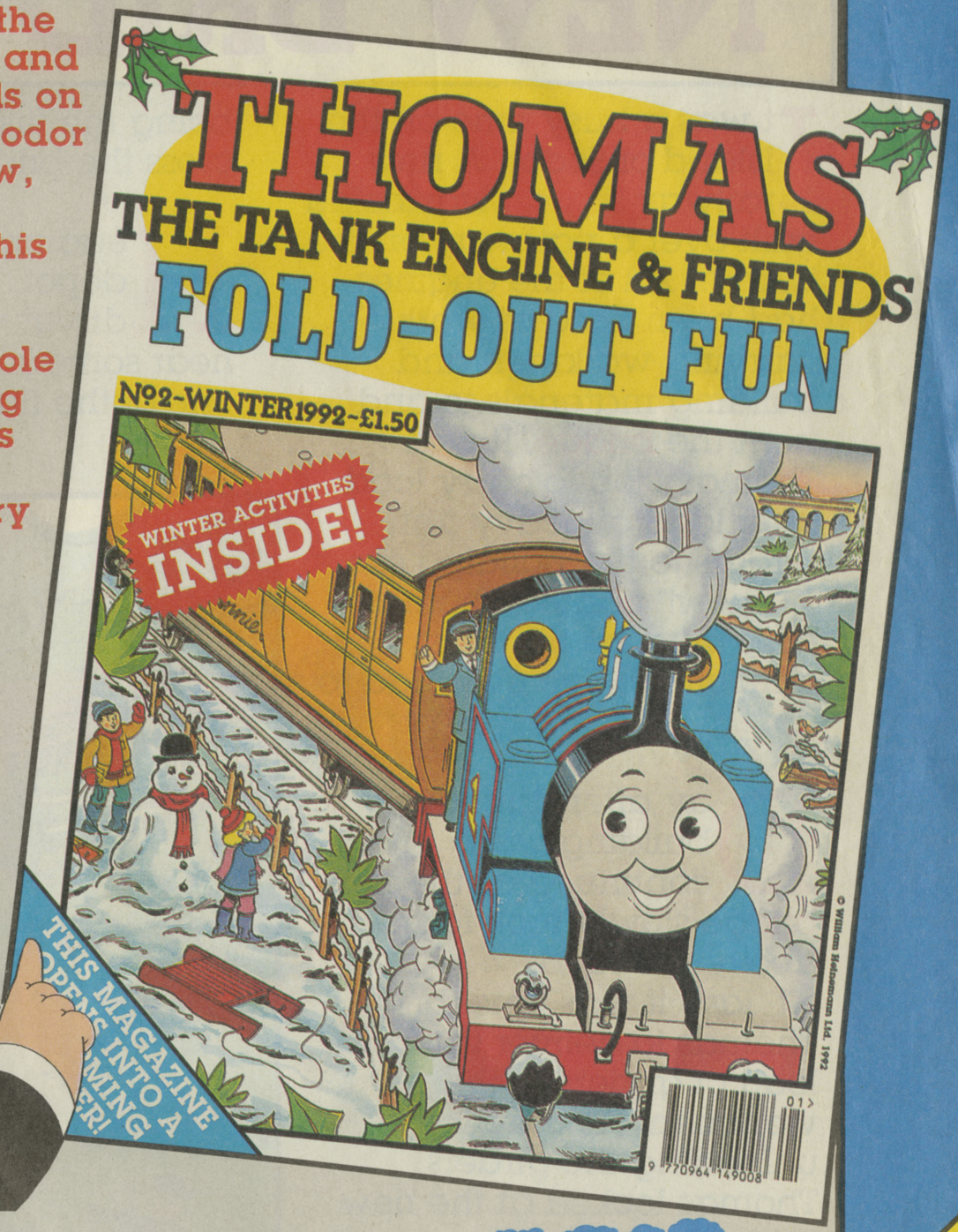
THE END

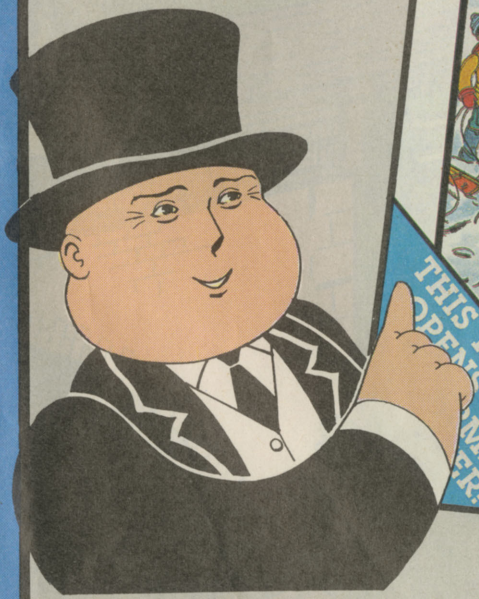
In our next issue: Feeling Homesick!

ALL ABOARD

THOMAS'S BRAND NEW MAGAZINE!

Join Thomas, the Fat Controller and all their friends on the Island of Sodor in a brand new, charming publication! This splendid magazine contains a whole host of exciting stories, puzzles and activities which all carry the theme of winter!





This unique magazine also opens into a charming poster to hang on your bedroom wall!

ON SALE NOW!

THOMAS AND THE NEW BRIDGE!

It was a busy time on the Island of Sodor. A new railway bridge was being built over a pathway on the island. All of the engines had been hard at work carrying workmen and building materials to and from the bridge. It was Thomas's job to carry load after load of heavy iron girders to the building site.

"Phew!" panted Thomas. "This must be the most difficult job I've ever had to do."

Day after day, the building work continued as the new bridge slowly took form above the road.

At last, it was time for Thomas to deliver the final load of girders to the workmen. As they were unloading the girders, Thomas looked at the new bridge.

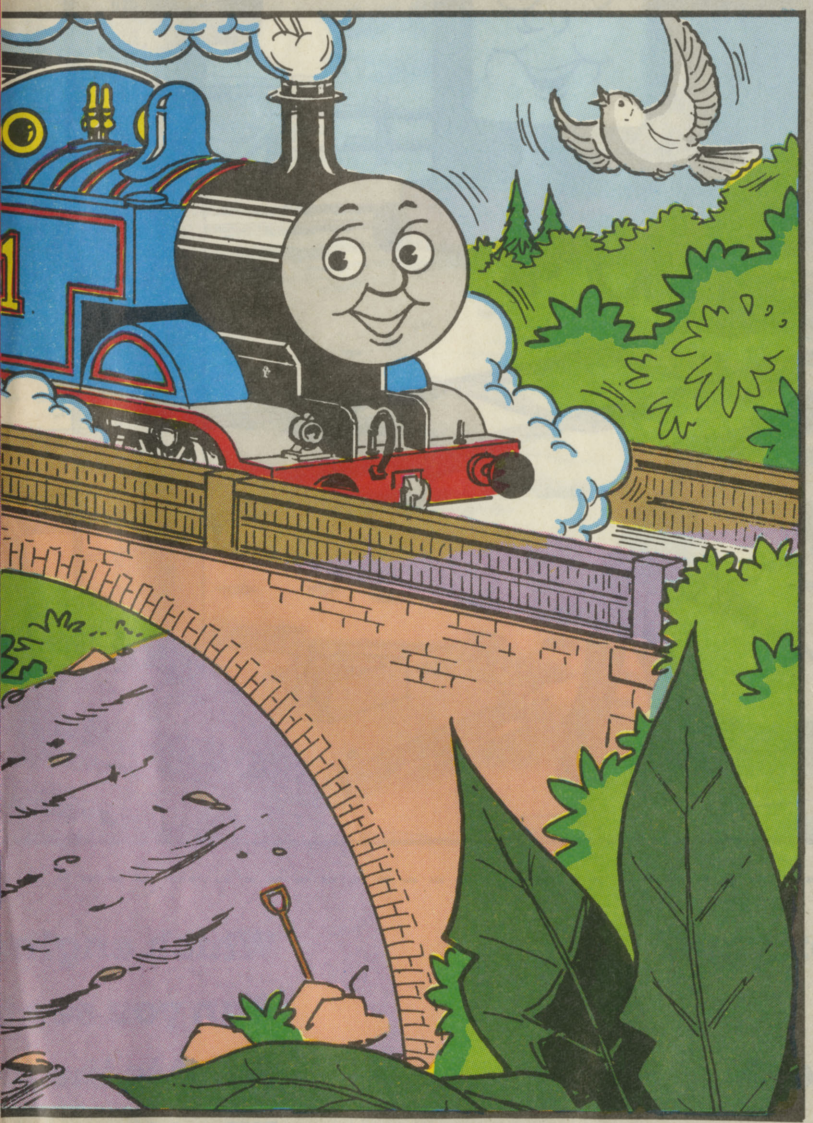
"When all the work is finished it will be the finest bridge on the island," thought Thomas. "I wonder who will have the honour of being the first engine to cross the bridge?"

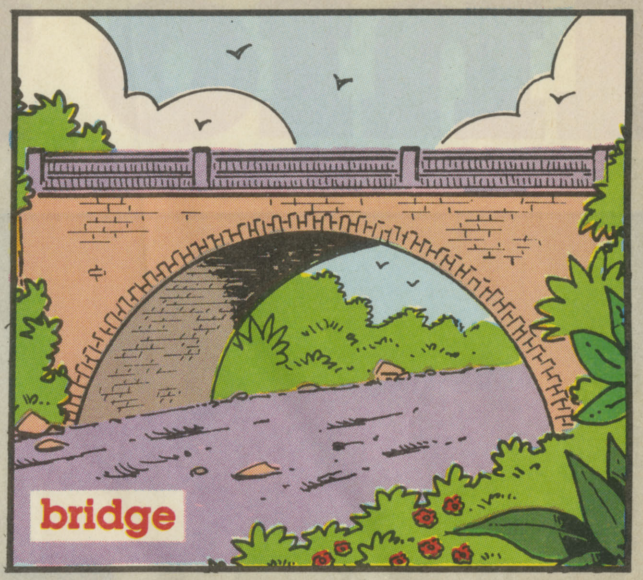
Heading back to the depot, Thomas and his driver were puzzled to hear something rattling in one of the flat trucks.

"Whatever could that be?" wondered the driver. At the depot, he checked each truck in turn for the cause of the strange noise. "Oh dear!" he cried out as he reached the final truck. "A single girder has been left on the truck."

Jumping aboard, the driver took Thomas back up to the site of the new bridge.

"It's very important that the workmen have all the iron girders," said the driver.





Reaching the bridge Thomas found the workmen searching all round, trying to find the missing girder.

"We're one girder short to complete the bridge," a worried workman told Thomas.

"Not to worry," said Thomas's driver. "We've got the missing girder."

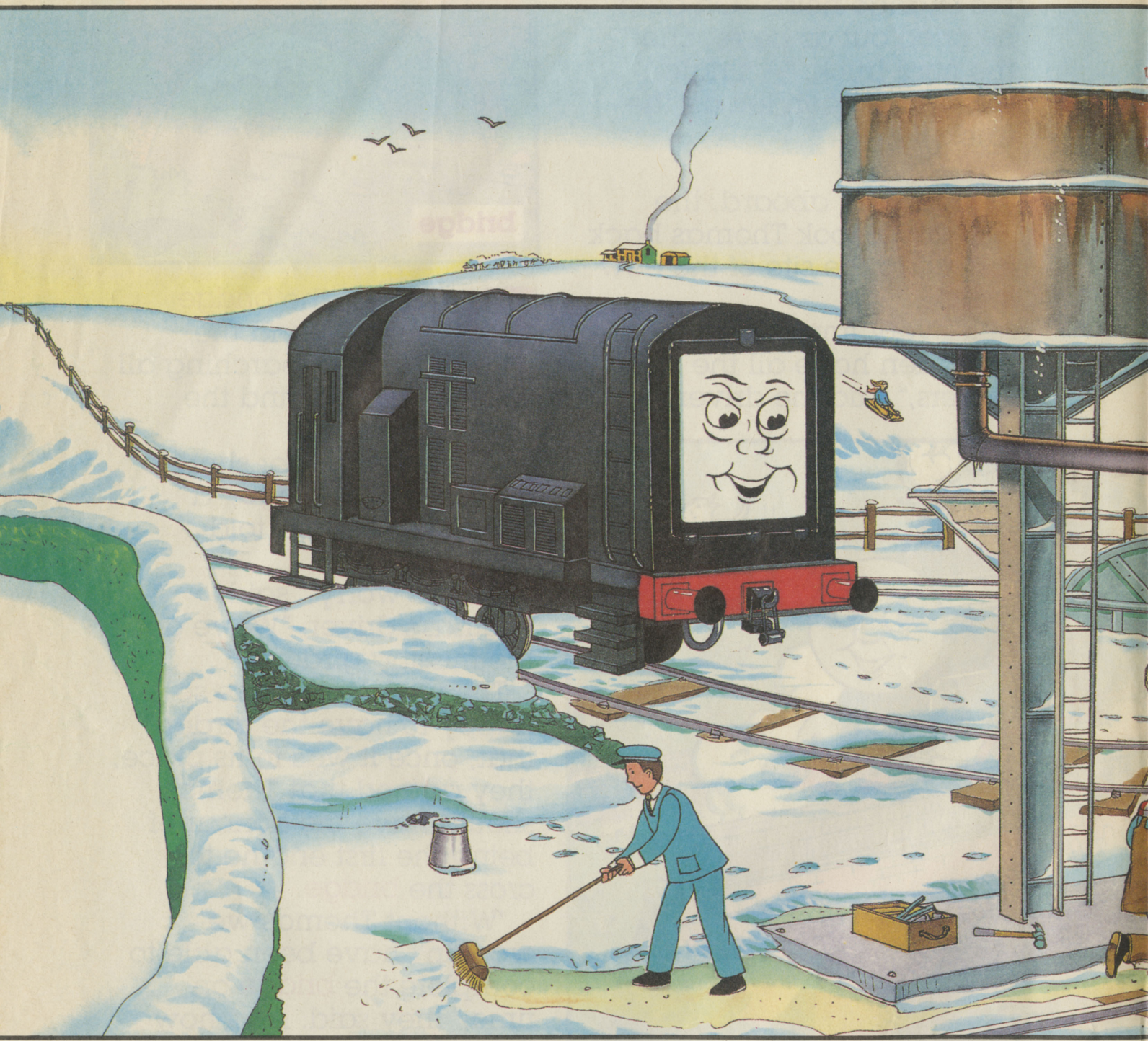
The workmen were so happy to have the girder that, once it was in its place, they agreed that Thomas should have the honour of being the first engine to cross the bridge.

"Without Thomas we wouldn't have been able to complete the bridge on time," they said. And how they all cheered as Thomas steamed across the brand new bridge.

Thomas felt very proud, indeed!

THE END

Into the sta



Which engine is in the station yard?

What colour is he?

How many guards can you see?

What are they doing?

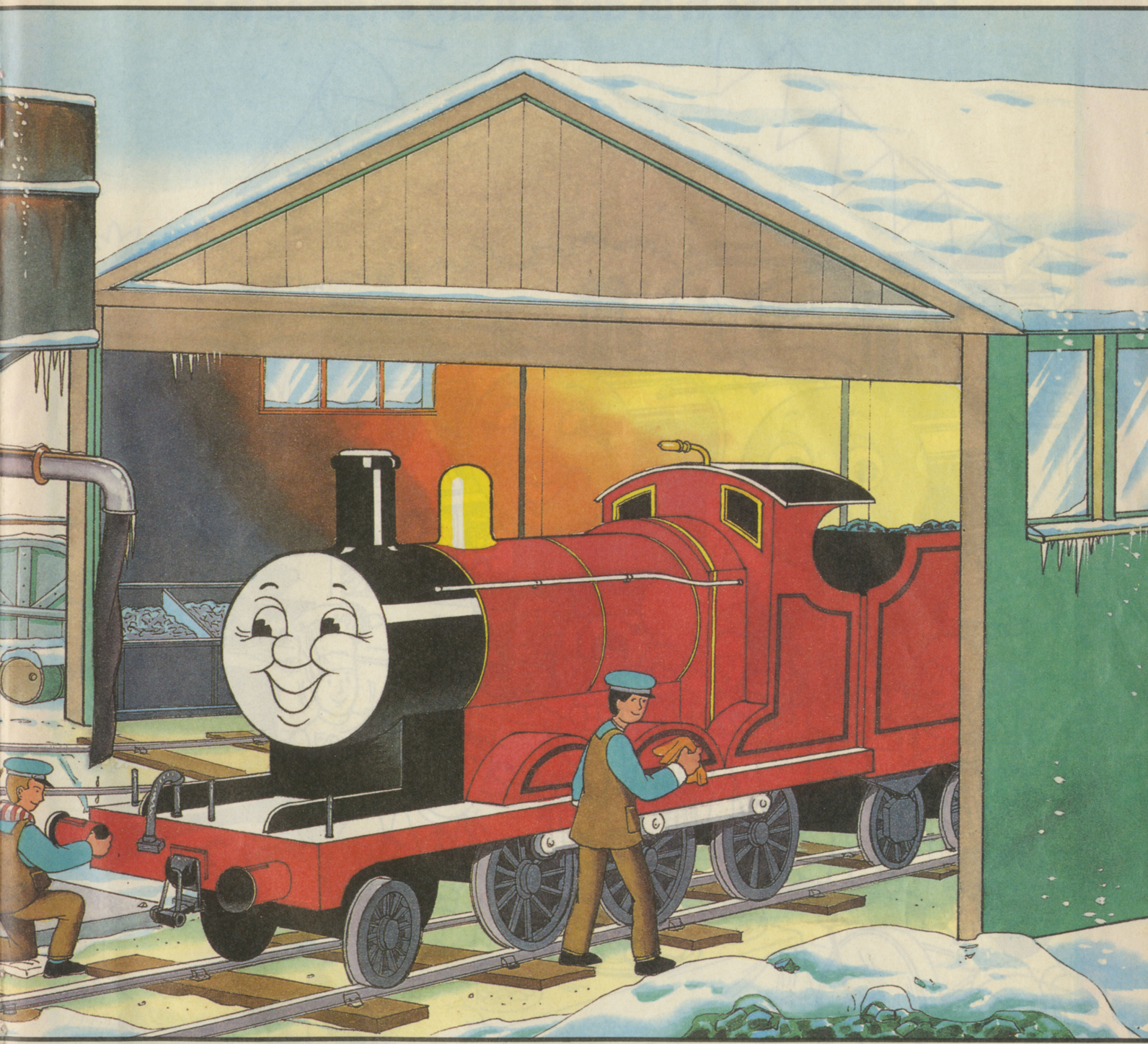
Which engine

Can you see t

Point to the to

What time of y

ation yard!



e is approaching the yard?

he water tower?

ol box!

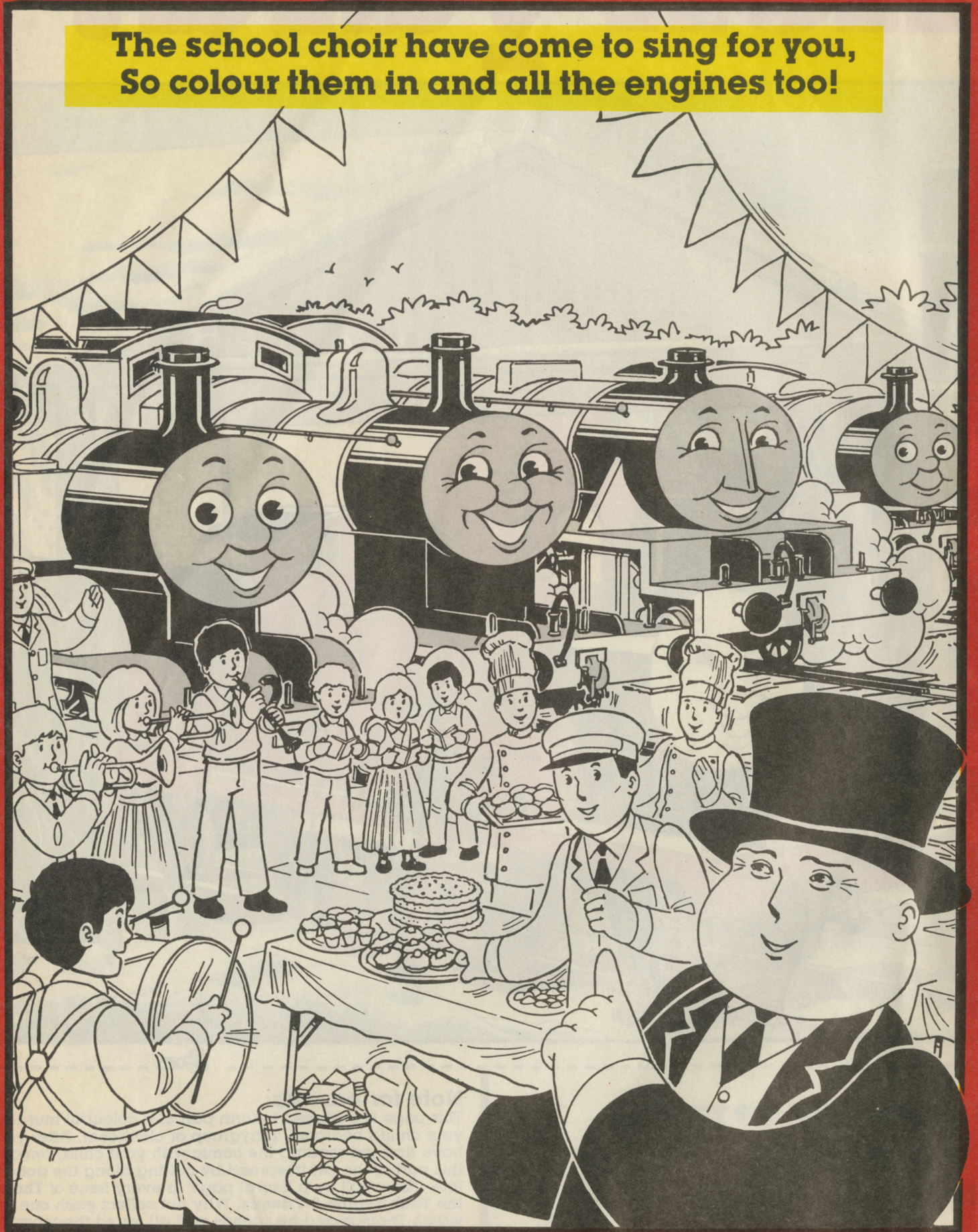
year do you think it is?

Note for parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Stopping for firewood!

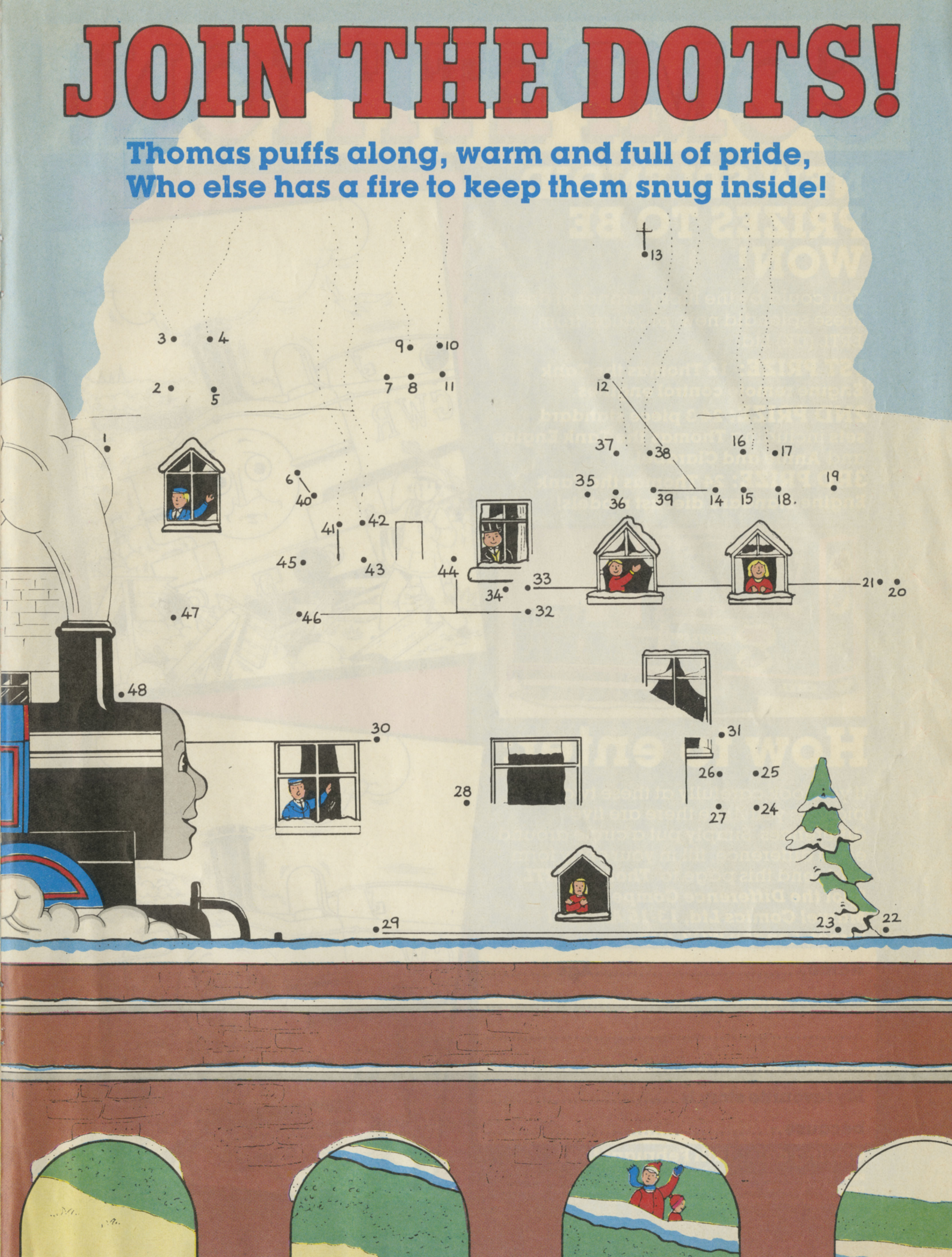
COLOURING TIME!

**The school choir have come to sing for you,
So colour them in and all the engines too!**



JOIN THE DOTS!

Thomas puffs along, warm and full of pride,
Who else has a fire to keep them snug inside!



COMPETITION!

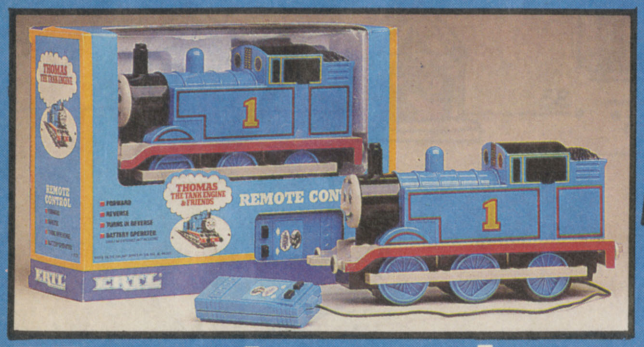
NEW SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

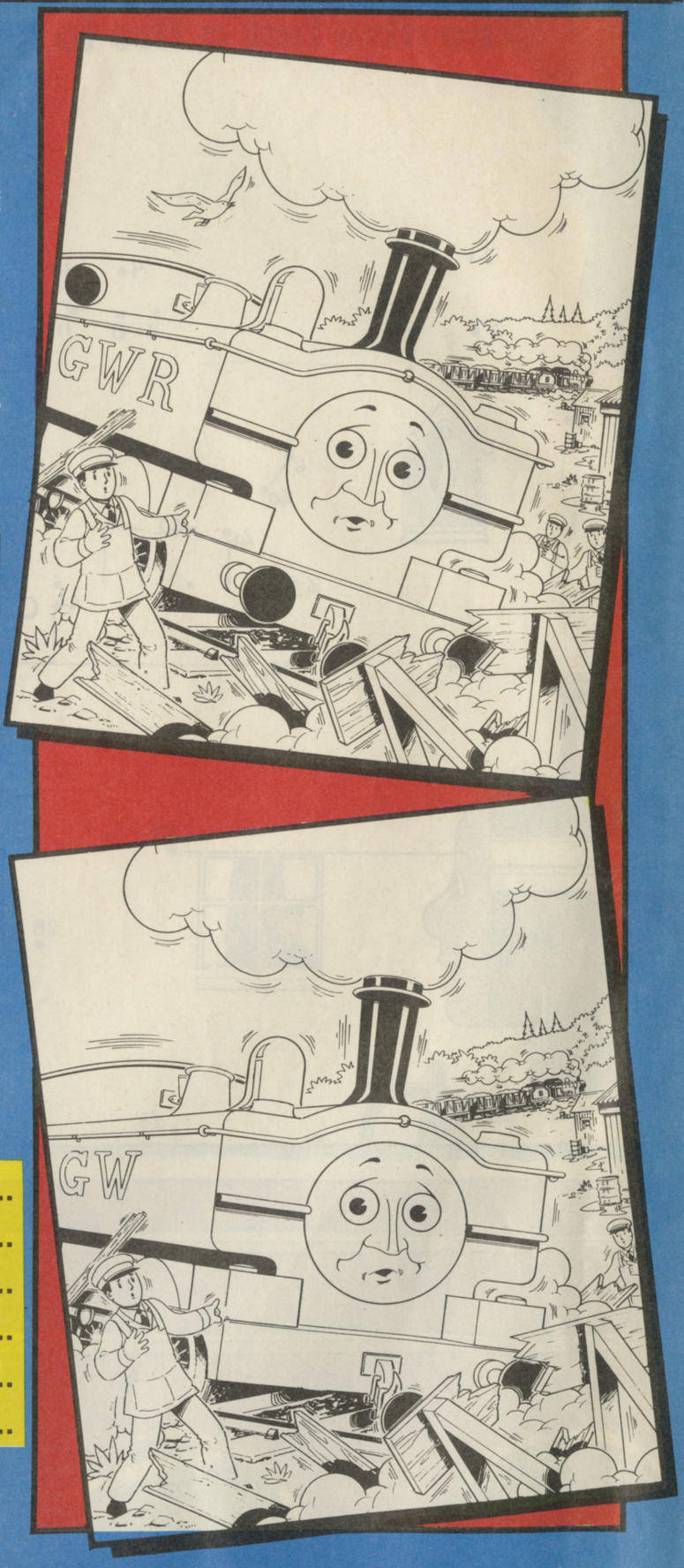
You could be the lucky winner of one of these splendid new products from ERTL (UK) Ltd.

1ST PRIZE: 12 Thomas the Tank Engine remote control engines.

2ND PRIZE: 24 3 piece standard sets including **Thomas the Tank Engine** and **Annie and Clarabel.**

3RD PRIZE: 24 Thomas the Tank Engine standard diecast models!





How to enter:

If you look carefully at these two pictures you'll see there are five differences. Simply put a circle around each difference, fill in your entry form and send this page to: ***Thomas/ERTL Spot the Difference Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.***

Name.....Age.....

Address.....

.....

.....

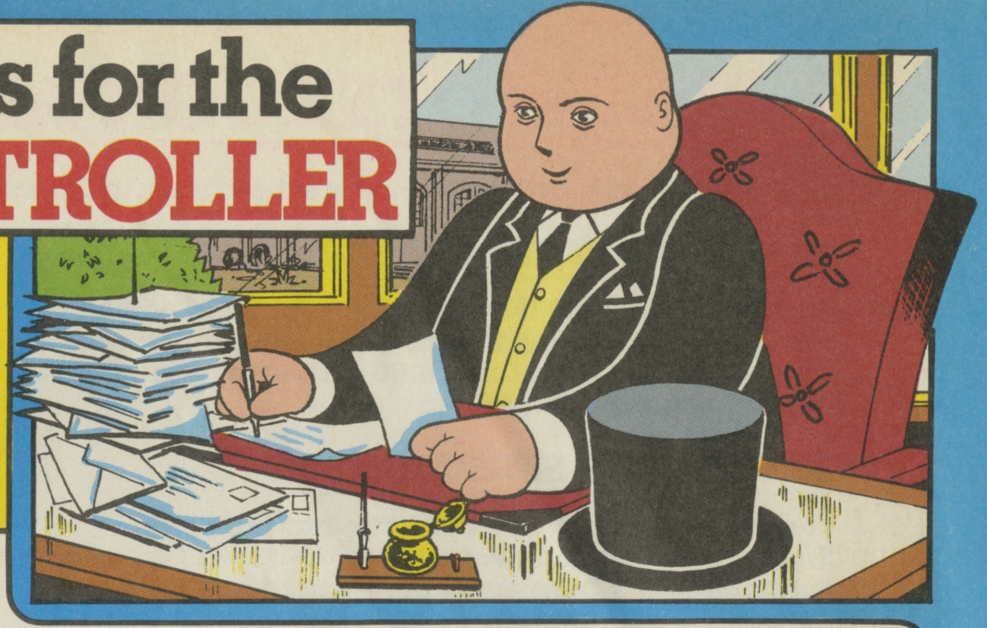
My favourite story is .....

because.....

Closing date: 14th February 1992.

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL(UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Thomas, Percy, Gordon and James,
Are beautiful engine names,
Bill and Ben have gone up the track,
It won't be long till they come back,
Because it's now time for bed
And all the engines are in their shed!

Love from **Thomas Powell.**

Your delightful verse is splendid,
We wish it had never ended!
For this you have won a prize,
To write again would be very wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank motorised engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

USEFUL ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy, daddy, brother Kevin and I were on holiday near Aviemore and saw an engine just like Trevor working in a saw mill. He looked very useful just like all your engines!

Love from **Michael Donaldson**, aged 3.

Was the traction engine you saw dragging some logs? Trevor often helps move logs in the Vicarage orchard!

HOLIDAY TIME!

Dear Fat Controller,
Hello! My name is Richard Joe. When I was on holiday I went on a little steam engine who looked like Percy! Do Thomas and his friends ever go on holidays!

Love from **Richard**, aged 3.

All of my engines have a very busy timetable throughout the year and they are normally too busy to go on holiday! But sometimes when my engines are rushing past the seaside on a summers day they tell me it is just as much fun as being on holiday!

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings go out to the following readers . . .

Richard Cole, Chelsea Vizard, Richard Smith, Leigh Poolman (34902), Robert Lees (31561), Kyle Roff (31721), Andrew Jankowski (33047), Terry Craig (34279), Adrian Richard Brown (31492), Adam Phillips, Simon Parry (36425), Richard Jackson (35821), David James Evans (36866), Luke Jeffrey Mulholland.

If you would like a birthday mention on this page, please send your details at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

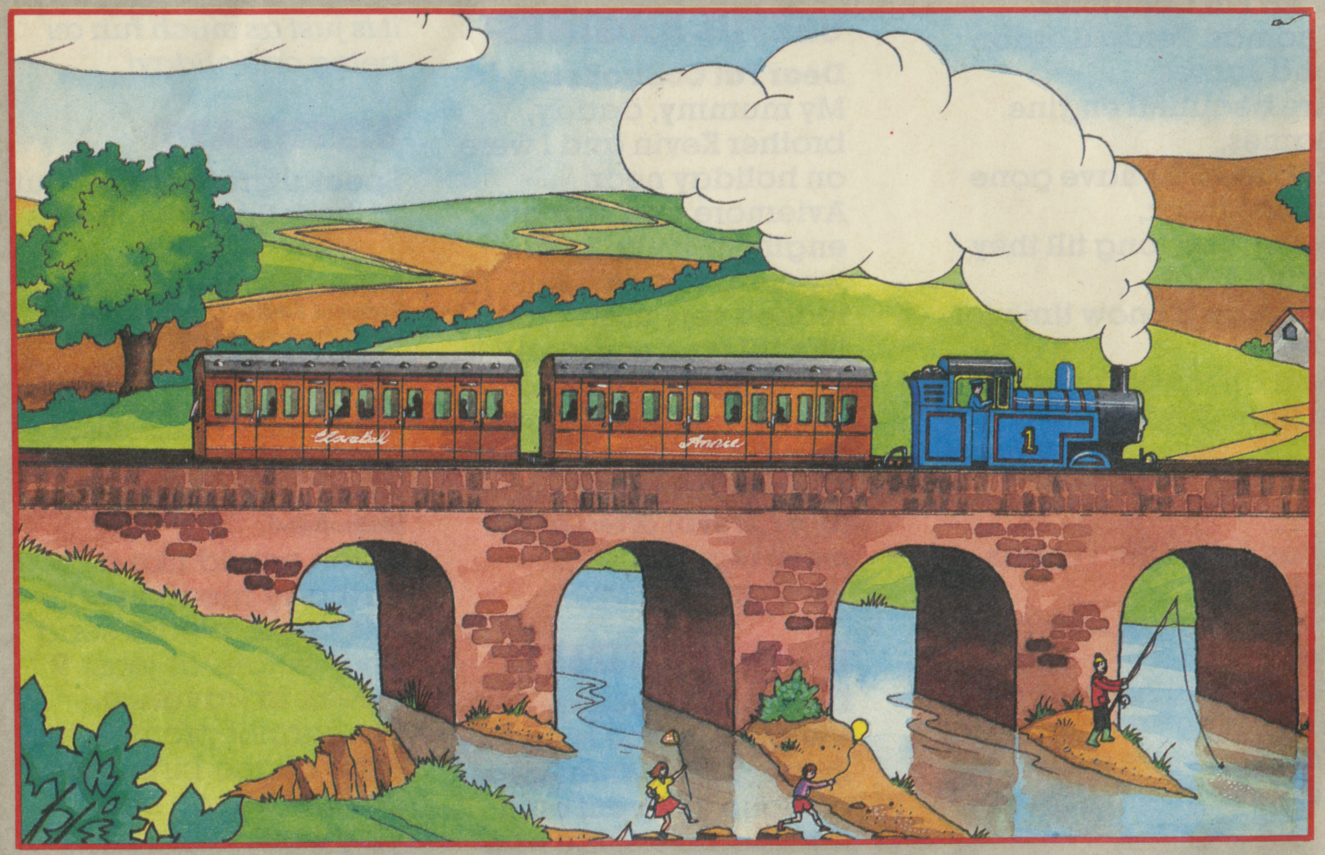
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (**£35.00** overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas)
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas).

Child's name .....
Address .....
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Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
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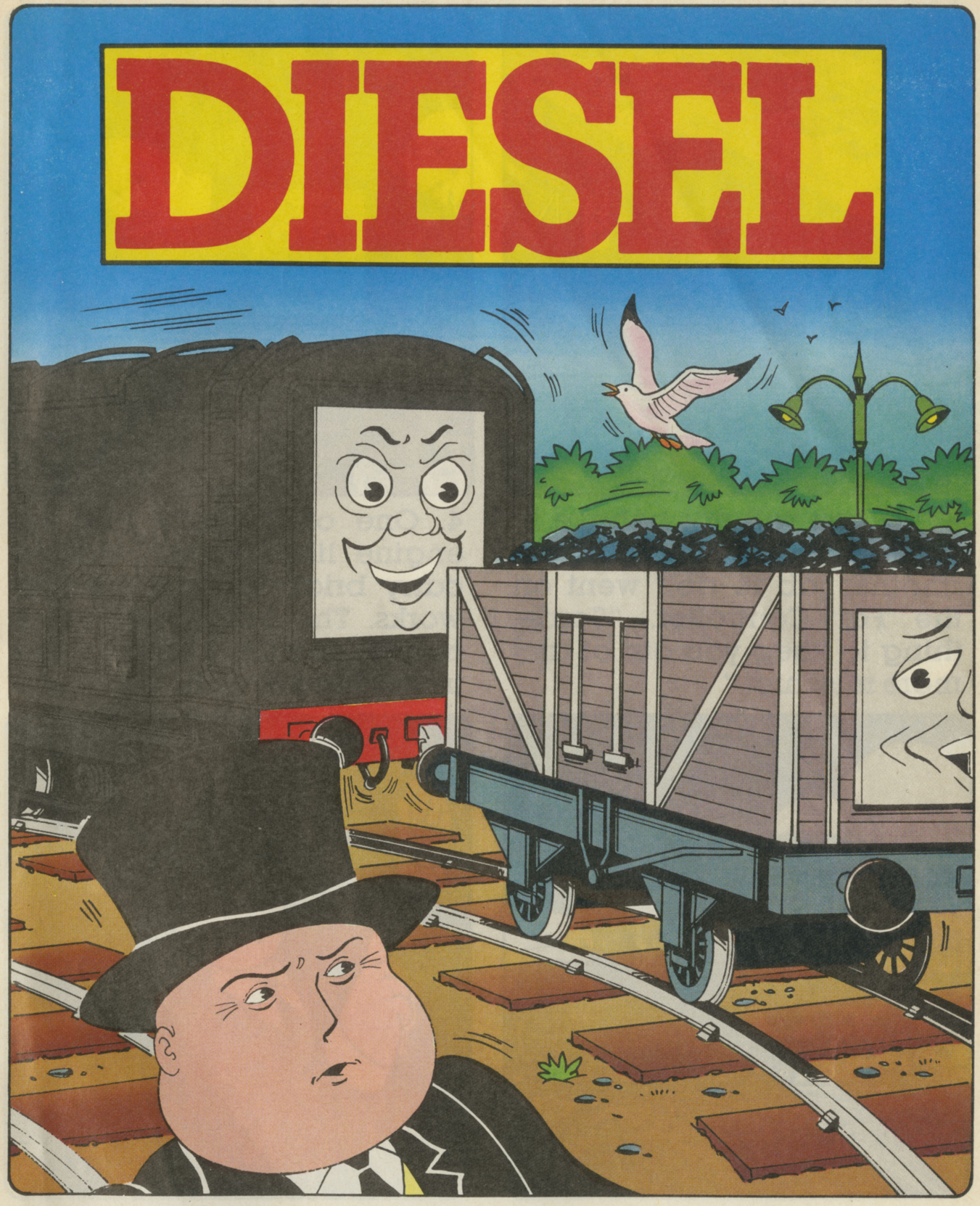
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

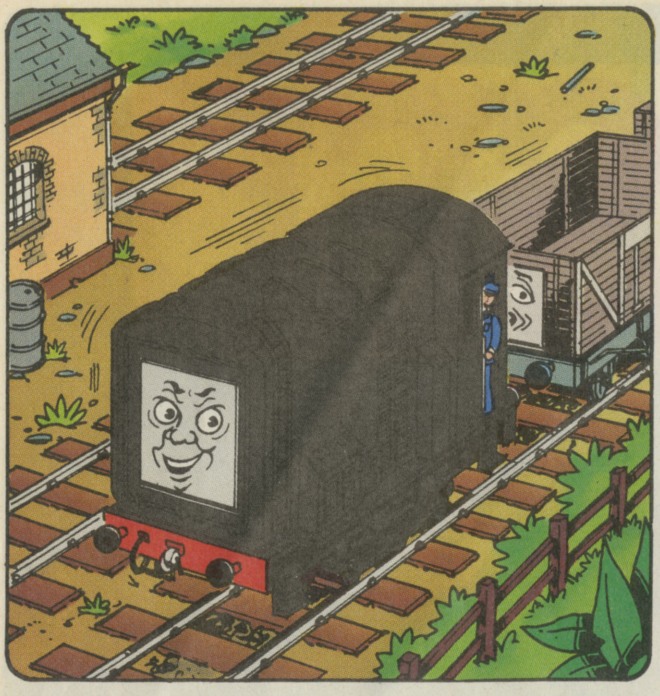
(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

A listen and look story!

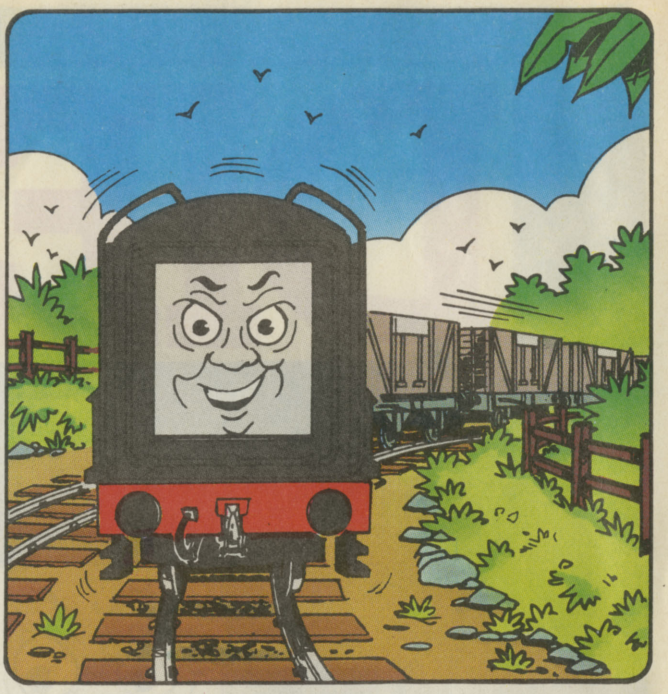


1. Diesel was unhelpful at the best of times. But one morning, he was more mean and oily than usual. Thump! Bang! Crash! went the trucks he was shunting.

2. "Careful, Diesel!" called his driver. "You'll have those trucks off the rails." "Who cares?" muttered naughty Diesel. "I do!" snapped the Fat Controller.

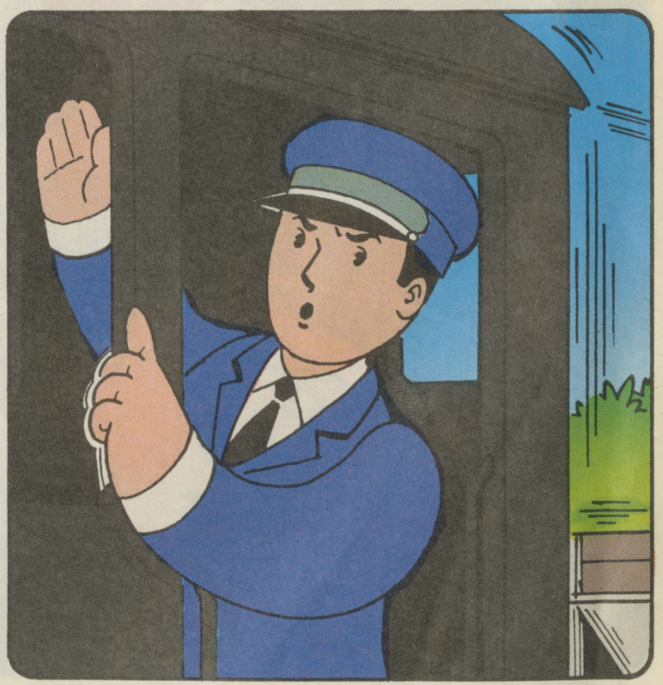


3. "As you will not behave in the yard today, I will give you another job to do," went on the Fat Controller. "Something to keep you out of any more mischief."

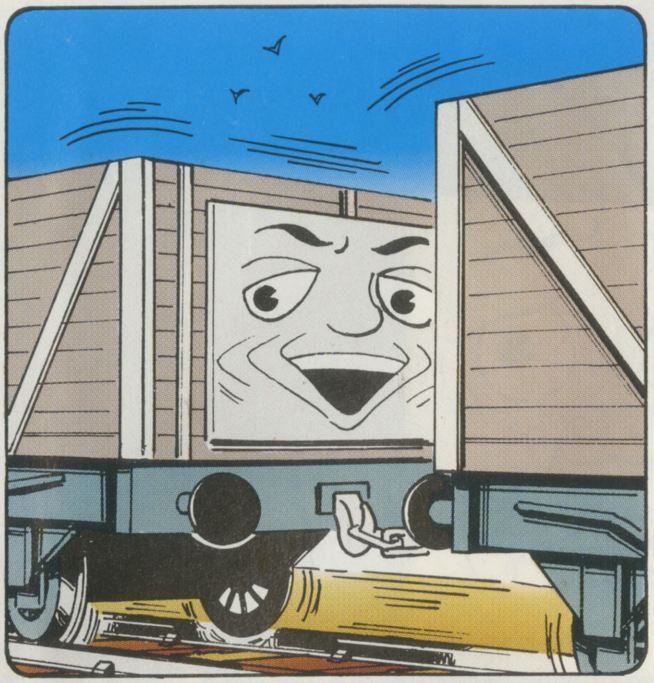


4. One of the jobs that no engine liked to do, was to carry bricks from the brickworks. The bricks were very heavy, which made the trucks hard to pull.

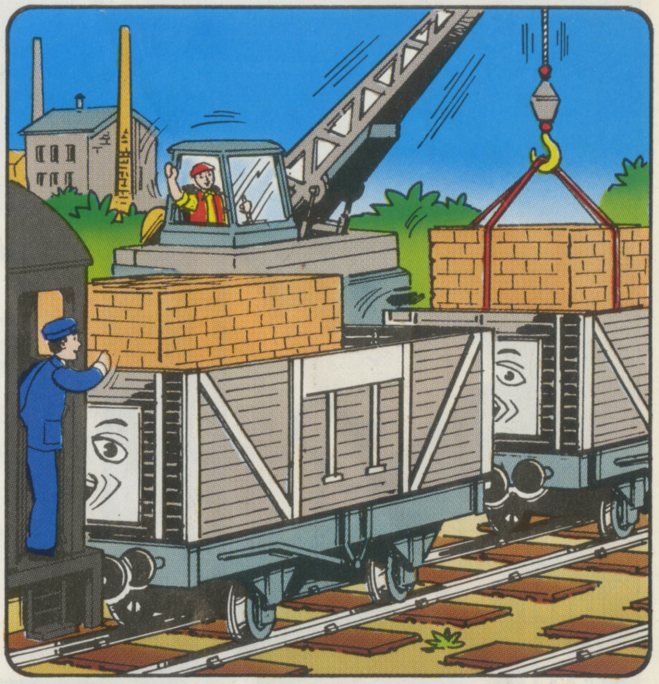
5. "It's not fair! It's not fair!" muttered Diesel, as he pulled the empty trucks to the brickworks. "It serves you right! It serves you right!" they sang back.



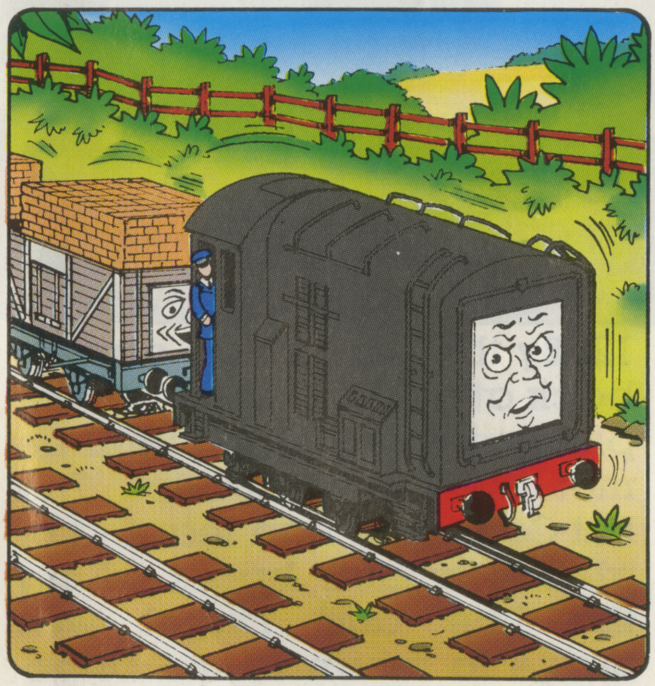
6. Their giggling made Diesel even crosser. To get his own back, he went round a bend so fast, the Troublesome Trucks nearly bounced off the rails.



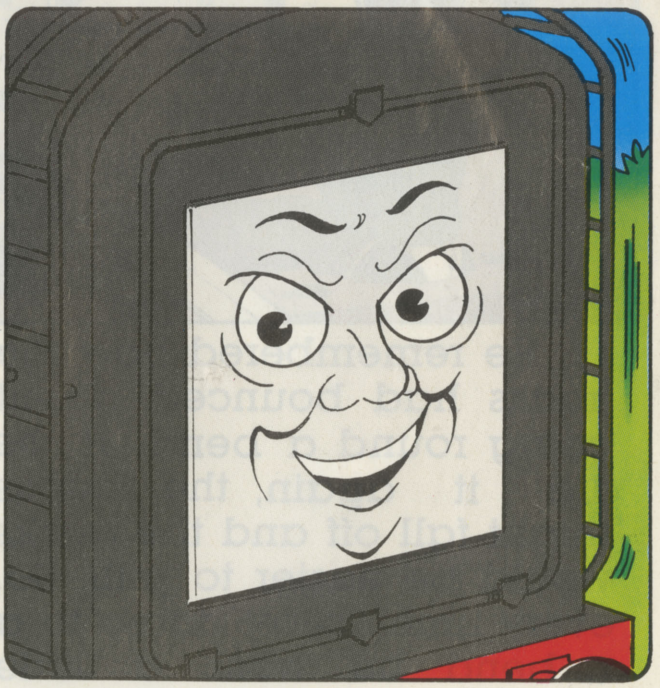
7. "Behave yourself, Diesel!" warned his driver. "Behave yourself! Behave yourself!" mocked the empty trucks, as the brickworks at last came into sight.



8. There, a crane was waiting, to load the bricks into the empty trucks. Soon, the crane hoisted up each heavy load, until all of the trucks were piled high.



9. "That's the lot!" shouted the crane operator. "Let's be on our way then," said Diesel's driver. The trucks were so heavy, Diesel's motor groaned.



10. Very slowly at first, Diesel pulled forwards. "Brmm! Brmm! Those bricks are very heavy," he complained. Then, naughty Diesel had an idea.

11. He remembered how the trucks had bounced about going round a bend. If he did it again, the bricks might fall off and the trucks would be easier to pull. So, every time Diesel came to a a bend he went a little faster. Just enough to make some of the bricks fall out. He was being particularly naughty.

12. By the time Diesel arrived back at the yard, he was very pleased with himself until he met the Fat Controller. The Fat Controller had learned of all the spilled bricks along the line and Diesel was made to return to the brick-works so the mess could be cleared. He didn't get back to his shed till very late that night!

THE END

In our next issue: Promises!